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U.S. SUPREME COURT REJECTS SUIT CHALLENGING BIDEN WIN

In a major blow for US President Donald Trump, the top court rejected a lawsuit challenging his rival's win in four key states

'NO JUDICIALLY COGNIZABLE INTEREST'

The lawsuit by Texas attorney general had sought to block the ballots of millions of voters in the swing states of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The court said, Texas does not have the legal right to sue those states because it "has not demonstrated a judicially cognizable interest in the manner in which another state conducts its elections" | P11

TRUMP APPOINTEES VOICE NO DISSENT

- Neither Justice Amy Barrett, whom Trump hurriedly appointed in October, expecting her backing in election disputes, nor the two other judges he appointed, noted a dissent against the ruling
- Trump bemoaned the decision late on Friday, tweeting: "The Supreme Court really let us down. No Wisdom, No Courage!"

538 electors

TO MEET MONDAY TO CHOOSE THE NEXT PRESIDENT. BIDEN HAS 306 ELECTORS

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Reforms will break barriers: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday defended the farm reforms, saying they will increase farmers' income. "If you place barriers, which previous governments did, an industry or sector cannot grow. The recent agriculture reforms are a part of that barrier-breaking process," he said in his address to the Annual General Meeting of the FICCI

Farm leaders to sit on hunger strike tomorrow

Farmers take over two toll plazas in Haryana; Delhi-Jaipur main road to be blocked today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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FARMERS' union leaders said on Saturday they were ready for talks with the government, but only to discuss the repeal of the three contentious laws and not any amendment.

"We are ready for talks but the government has to discuss the repealing of the farm laws first. We will move on to other demands only after that," said Sanyukta Kisan Andolan leader Kamalpreet Singh Pannu.

To escalate their protest, the protesters will block the Delhi-Jaipur highway on Sunday, a day before the proposed nationwide protest. On Monday, farmers, union leaders will hold a one-day hunger strike and lay siege to the offices of deputy commissioners.

"We have given a call to women to intensify their protest," said Pannu, adding farmers from various parts of the country were on their way to Singhu border and they would take the agitation to the next level.

Protesters are bringing combine harvesters from Punjab and Haryana to the Singhu and Tikri borders, to pull down the barricades put up by police.

"One combine can pull down 25-30 barricades. If police have vehicles to stop us then we have the combines, which are our tanks," said a youngster who brought a combine to Singhu. P9

Workers go on rampage at iPhone unit over pay dues

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

THE workers of Wistron Corporation, the Taiwan-headquartered company which manufactures iPhones, damaged furniture, computers and television sets, and even overturned vehicles at its facility in Narasapura industrial area early on Saturday. They were protesting against alleged non-payment of salary dues.

Preliminary investigation has revealed major damage on the premises and work has been suspended temporarily for a week. Sources said the facility employs about 5,000 workers of whom about 2,000 are contract employees. The incident occurred after the night shift (10 pm to 6 am) concluded and the first shift (6 am to 2 pm) employees, who were coming in, also joined in.

Police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the workers. P5

Damaged equipment and furniture at Wistron's facility near Kolar on Saturday.

The government will do the needful to ensure that the situation is resolved expeditiously and that the concerns of all stakeholders are allayed —Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan

Transport staff, govt harden stance

Employees of state-owned transport corporations continued their strike for the third day on Saturday. While they have decided to intensify their agitation, CM B S Yediyurappa and Transport Minister Laxman Savadi asked them to first call off the agitation and come for talks.

DETAILS | P4

CELEBRATING SPORT

Governor Vajubhai Vala, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, and Deputy CM Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, along with KOA President K Govindaraj, release a coffee table book titled, "India's Sporting Victories", brought out by The New Indian Express at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T | P7

WITH THIS ISSUE
ALTERNATE IS REALITY
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Conflict of interest in govt's green panel

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

OFFICIALS who headed power and mining corporations will now give green clearance to upcoming projects in these sectors, raising questions of propriety.

An independent director of a private mining company, a former CMD of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and a former director (Technical) of National Thermal Power Corporation are among those appointed to the Union Environment Ministry's expert appraisal committees (EACs) as 'non-official' members with a mandate to assess damage to the environment by hydroelectric, thermal power and coal mining projects.

The appointments to the reconstituted EACs on Thermal Power and Coal Mining Projects and on River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects have invited criticism, for their chairpersons and members either having conflict of interest or lacking expertise in the field.

Gururaj P Kundargi, former Chairman and Managing Director, Manganese Ore Mining Limited, is the chairperson of EAC on Thermal Power and Coal Mining Projects.

What raises eyebrows is that Kundargi is currently an independent director of Bengaluru-based Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores Ltd and the company's proposal for expansion in production capacity for iron ore from 1.60 million metric tonnes per year (MTPA) to 3.85 MTPA is under consideration by the committee headed by him. P9

Forums, parties unite against Kasturirangan Committee report

Leaders of various political parties and organisation are uniting to fight against the implementation of the Kasturirangan Committee report in the Malnad region. They have even given a call to boycott the gram panchayat polls in the areas identified by the report as eco-sensitive zones | DETAILS | P7

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